

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF MR. DON MASCH AFTER NEARLY 23 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH ATK AND VISTA OUTDOOR, INC.

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2017

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Mr. Don Masch after nearly 23 years of service with ATK and Vista Outdoor, Inc.

Don was born and raised in Waterbury, Connecticut and graduated from Sacred Heart High School in 1966. After high school, he attended the University of Connecticut and graduated in 1970 with a degree in Political Science.

As a Distinguished Military Graduate, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Don served in a variety of command and staff positions in the United States and overseas, including assignments to Syria, Lebanon, Germany and Israel. He holds a Master of Arts in National Security Affairs from the United States Naval Postgraduate School, and is a graduate of the Defense Language Institute and Army Command and General Staff College. In the Pentagon, he served on the Army Staff and in the Secretary of the Army's Office of Legislative Liaison, retiring in 1993 as a Lieutenant Colonel.

Don Masch began his career in industry in February of 1993, initially with Short Brothers USA, joining ATK in 1994 as part of the corporation's government relations team. There he became a trusted lobbyist and advocate on a wide range of defense and aerospace policies and programs. He quickly earned a reputation as a reliable and effective spokesman in Washington, D.C., helping to establish ATK on Capitol Hill. His fact-based approach to issues and commitment to integrity made him indispensable to ATK and the people in Washington with whom he worked.

In addition to his role as head of Congressional Relations at ATK, Don served as the head of the Ethics Panel at the Association of Government Relations Professionals, President of the Washington, D.C. Chapter of the National Defense Industrial Association, and in other association positions. He also was a guest speaker at numerous seminars and panels, including NDIA and Georgetown Law School.

When ATK acquired Orbital Sciences in 2015, he played a key role in the transition of both the Orbital ATK and the newly formed Vista Outdoor Government Relations teams, becoming Vista's Vice President for Government and Industry Relations. As head of Vista's federal affairs, Don has proven to be an effective advocate on conservation, sportsmen's issues and 2nd Amendment rights. He is well respected for both his knowledge and his consummate professionalism, with a warm sense of humor and strong work ethic.

As Don and his wife Karen head off to future endeavors and more time with their sons Don and Brian and five grandchildren, I congratulate him on his retirement and thank him for his diligent service to the country and to the defense and outdoor industries.

RECOGNIZING THE STATE CHAMPION BOWLER ZACH BOBBETT

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2017

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishment of Zach Bobbett of the Union Springs/Port Byron Bowling Team, who was part of the Section IV team in the New York State Public High School Association on March 5, 2017. The Section IV team defeated the Section III team by 228 pins to secure the title.

Zach Bobbett scored the second highest score of the tournament with 1,341 pins over six games.

I am honored to recognize the hard work displayed by Zach Bobbett and the rest of the Section IV team, their families, the coaching staff, and teachers. This is a historic win for Central New York and I am confident that the positive experiences from the 2017 season will yield continued success in both athletics and academics.

TRINITY AVERITT

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Trinity Averitt for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Trinity Averitt is a student at Moore Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Trinity Averitt is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Trinity Averitt for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING FRED DOUGLAS MASON, JR.

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2017

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend a great American who has devoted more than five decades of his life to the continuing struggle of our nation's working families for greater opportunity, empowerment, and social justice.

On June 16, Fred Douglas Mason, Jr., who retired in April as President of the Maryland-District of Columbia AFL-CIO and its 384,000 members, will be honored at a dinner in his honor.

We would be remiss if we did not recognize the contributions and struggles of Fred Mason and all the other hard-working Americans who forge our steel, build our automobiles, care for our families in times of illness or injury, teach our children, and contribute their sweat and toil to enriching our lives in so many other ways.

Fred Mason's career, both on the assembly lines of Baltimore and as a union organizer and leader, exemplified the strong and resilient character of the Americans he served during the last 52 years.

Fred personally experienced the heartbreak that wreaked havoc on the economic and social order of our Greater Baltimore community—as Bethlehem Steel, General Motors, General Electric, Proctor and Gamble and other manufacturing corporations abandoned their Baltimore operations, leaving nearly 100,000 working families to reach deeply into their hearts, pull themselves together, and chart new courses for their lives.

Fred Mason also knew the empowering strength of education that provides needed skills and justifies a living wage, a health care plan and a secure retirement.

Throughout his career, he worked tirelessly to expand the job training and tuition assistance that has allowed so many of his brothers and sisters to build better lives.

From his earliest days as a student at Morgan State College (now University), Fred Mason also understood that an integrated America, both racially and socio-economically, is a stronger and more prosperous nation.

And although he will be laying down the gavel as President of the Maryland-DC AFL-CIO, I am confident that Fred Mason will carry on in the cause of universal civil and human rights.

I hold this conviction because, like Fred Mason, I, too, am a son of labor and a civil rights worker.

And like Fred Mason, we all must understand that the civil rights movement of our own time is not limited to issues of race or gender or freedom of conscience—as critically important as those struggles remain.

The civil rights movement of our time, Mr. Speaker, is also about whether parents can afford to feed and house their children—and provide those children with the education and health care that they need and deserve.

The choice is ours.

Will America once again become a nation of opportunity for everyone willing to work hard?

Or will hard-working Americans continue to be squeezed past the breaking point by policies, enacted from afar, that devalue our people, our economy and the nation that we love?

Mr. Speaker, this is the message that Fred Mason has lived and taught to others for more than five decades—and the same message that has become central to the national debates of our own time.

It was at Morgan State College that Fred first came to understand that organization matters and is critical to progress in our country in the area of Civil Rights.

At Bethlehem Steel and on the assembly lines of General Motors, Fred Mason came to realize that working people can become empowered if they organize.

Now, in retirement, Fred also knows that the struggle to organize America must continue.

He knows that political democracy in America is irrevocably linked to the expanded economic and social democracy that has carried so many closer to the American Dream.